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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Andreas MESCHENMOSER

Group Art Unit 1731

Appln. No. : 09/982,175

Examiner: Unknown

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the following document for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicant submits herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated March 2, 2001 conducted in German Patent Application No. 100 54 674.9, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited;

(1) German Patent Application No. 196 38 689 A1 published March 26, 1998, as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed in the present application). The German Examiner did not cite any portions of this document as relevant to the German application. Applicant notes that this document is discussed beginning on page 3, line 1 of the disclosure; and

(2) German Patent Application No. 298 11 048 U1 published October 29, 1998, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the German Examiner noted figure 5 as relevant to claims 1-4, and 13 of the German application; and

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(3) German Patent Application No. 37 42 848 A1 published June 29, 1989, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the German Examiner noted figures 1 and 6 as relevant to claim 1 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,915,790 issued to Dahl April 10, 1990 which is identified as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited document; and

(4) European Patent Specification No. 0 064 933 B1 published November 17, 1982, as a "Y" category document. In particular, the German Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claim 1 of the German application.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Andreas MESCHENMOSER

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January 22, 2002
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